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U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F A G R I C U L T U R E

S O I L C O N S E R V A T I O N S E R V I C E

Harry E. Reddick, Regional Conservator

Santa Paula

Charles W. Petit, District Manager

Santa Paula

R. B. Cozzens, District Manager

Watsonville

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

TREE-PLANTING ACTIVE ON SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Trees

At the present time 10,000 trees a day are being planted in the California-Nevada region. Nearly 200,000 trees and shrubs have been distributed from the SCS nursery, near Santa Paula, during February. 16,000 trees have been shipped to Nevada for planting in washes on projects there.

Black Locust, Siberian Elm, Arizona Ash, Eucalyptus, and the native Sumacs constitute the bulk of the plants used.

Plantings are being made on the watersheds where they will retard runoff; some are being set out in rows to protect sandy land from damage by wind erosion.

FEBRUARY RAINS DRENCH CALIFORNIA PROJECTS

Southern California

Parched soils of southern California were given a good soaking during the February rains. Erosion control practices on the various projects were effective. In contrast unprotected land had considerable washing. Soil conservation measures not only saved the soil but conserved moisture.

Santa Cruz County

A farmer in the lower part of the Corralitos demonstration area stated that he had been saved three or four days of back-breaking work shoveling silt after each rain storm, as a result of erosion control on the land above his.

Aliso Creek Project

Control structures stood up well during the recent rains.

Highway Silting

On one of the northern projects a stream that, for at least five years, overflowed the main highway and deposited large quantities of silt, carried very little silt during the last intense storm. In previous years, four trucks, scrapers, and sixteen men were kept busy keeping the silt removed and the highway at this particular place open. This year only one truck was needed a part of the time.

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

Cover crops

Cover crops of rye and vetch, with 150 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, were planted in November on some of the northern projects. The torrential February rains found the land protected by a heavy cover crop. The small amount of water that ran off was clear and free from soil particles.

Farm Management

Farm management work has been started in the English Hills and Placerville areas. Twenty-eight farmers are now keeping records, several farms have records available

for the past twenty years, which will be of great assistance in the production and cost studies.

Corralitos
(Santa Cruz County)

Fifty-seven farms, with an area of 2383.7 acres are under agreement. Over 25,000 acres have been covered by the detailed erosion survey. Cooperators have agreed to plant erosion-resisting crops on over 1659 acres. 41.34 miles of terraces have been constructed to date. 574 permanent terrace outlet structures have been completed. 595 permanent dams have been constructed for the control of gullies, 12 of which were constructed during January. 448 man-days used in tree and shrub planting during January, 2211 man-days being used to date. 104.3 man-days nursery work and plant collection (January), and 2491.3 to date.

Las Posas
(Ventura County)

Sixty-eight farms, having a total acreage of 14,417, are under agreement. The entire project area has been covered by the detailed erosion survey. It has been agreed to retire to permanent hay and pasture over 1,500 acres. Over 444 acres of pasture land has been retired to forest. 6.88 miles of terrace were constructed during January, and 34.25 miles to date. Thirty-one permanent terrace outlets were constructed during the month, and a total of 203 to date. Seventy-six permanent dams for the control of gullies were constructed during January. 1,901 have been constructed since the start of work on the project.

Arroyo Grande
(San Luis Obispo County)

Forty-seven farms, covering an area of 2,444.60 acres, are under agreement. 1.5 miles of terraces were constructed during January, 28 miles being constructed to date. 38 permanent terrace outlet structures were completed during the month, 335 to date. 15 permanent dams were built in January, 376 to date. 300 acres of pasture land have been retired to forest, and over 152 acres of cultivated land. 1245 man-days have been used to date in tree and shrub planting.

Placerville
(El Dorado County)

Ten farms, with an area of 1744.5 acres, are under agreement. 6.59 miles of terraces have been constructed to date, and 61 terrace outlets completed. 12 permanent dams for gully control were built in January, the total to date being 27.

Sebastopol
(Sonoma County)

Twenty-four farms are under agreement, acreage 847.9. Over 1344 acres covered by detailed erosion survey. 95 permanent dams completed. 88 man-days, tree and shrub planting.

English Hills
(Solano County)

Thirteen farms under agreement, acreage 2056.9. 1478.8 acres have been covered by the detailed erosion survey. Over 339 acres have been newly contour furrowed. 12.86 miles of terraces have been constructed to date. 7 permanent terrace outlet structures were completed during January, 259 being constructed since the start of work on the area. 4 permanent dams constructed during January, 167

to date. 93.7 man-days (January), tree and shrub planting. 381.7 man-days to date. During the early part of January 56.8 acres of cover crops were planted. A total of 1,737 trees were planted during January.

Aliso Creek
(Orange County)

Six farms are under agreement, acreage 1,053.70. 5,192 acres covered by detailed erosion survey. 200 acres newly contour tilled. 153 acres have been taken out of cultivation. 90 acres of cultivated land retired to forest. 6.51 miles of terraces constructed (January), 17.13 to date. 13 permanent terrace outlets completed (January), 43 to date. Over 33,000 square yards of terrace outlets have been seeded and sodded. 32 permanent dams built (January), 117 to date. Over 2000 square yards of planting for gully bank protection was accomplished in January.

Lompoc
(Santa Barbara
County)

1.2 miles of terracing (January), 4.2 miles to date. 29 terrace outlets (January), 32 to date. Dams, 29 (January), 56 to date. Tree planting, 24 acres - (January), 119 to date. Rodent control, 192 acres - (January).

Vista
(San Diego County)

One mile of terracing to date. Terrace outlet ditches, 973 feet (January), 2003 feet to date. 15 terrace outlet structures constructed in January. 1200 feet diversion ditches in January. 4515 feet to date. Dams, 15; to date 47. Rodent control 700 acres (January).

Palos Verdes
(Los Angeles
County)

1069 feet of diversion ditches (January), 6591 feet to date. 21 dams were built in January, 57 to date. Bank sloping, square yards, January, 1944; to date 5949 square yards. Rodent control, January, 2320 acres; to date 4476 acres. Gully tree planting, January 23,316 square yards, to date 45,322 square yards.

NEVADA

Pahranagat Valley

Work has been continued on the upper washes through the building of rock dams five feet wide at the base and three feet on top. Rock aprons on the lower sides are being carefully constructed. These dams are expected to hold back peak floods so as to permit greater spreading of water and more time for water to soak into the ground.

Approximately 5 miles of post hole digging and setting of posts has been done. 32 rock dams have been built to date. Brush and rock is being gathered for additional dams. Posts are being cut.

Panaca

831 permanent rock and post dams have been completed in the washes east of Panaca. 445,280 square yards of seeding and sodding completed in gully treatment program. 5670 rods of fencing partially completed (holes dug and posts put in).

Bunkerville

Fourteen miles of truck trails have been completed. 4224 rods of fencing partially completed. 28 permanent dams built. 12,632 square yards of seeding and sodding completed in gully treatment program. 7260 square yards of tree planting in gully control.

SOIL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATIONS

In addition to the Associations listed last month the following have been added.

Highland,
California

Highland Association - (Santa Cruz County). The names of the officers for this association have not yet been received.

Pahranagat,
Nevada

Pahranagat Valley Association. Area - all of Pahranagat Valley extending from Pahranagat Lake to Hiko Springs, Lincoln County, Nevada. Formed February 7, 1936.

Following directors were elected:

G. Edgar Nesbitt, President
Carl Foremaster, Vice-President
C. O. Bastion, Secretary-Treasurer
Dan Stewart, Director
M. F. Schofield, Director

Eagle Valley,
Nevada

Eagle Valley Association. Nevada, Lincoln County. Drainage area of upper Meadow Valley Wash, north boundary approximately 25 miles north of Ursine. South boundary to adjoin north boundary of Panaca project. Formed February 6, 1936.

Officers elected:

Roy Lytle, President
Lorraine Hollinger, Vice-President
Joseph Hammond, Secretary-Treasurer
P. H. Devlin, Director
Milton Damron, Director

Palos Verdes,
California

Harbor District Soil Conservation Association, Palos Verdes, California.

Officers elected:

Benjamin P. Weston, President
A. E. Hanson, Vice-President
C. B. Snelgrove, Secretary-Treasurer
F. R. Leonard, Director
Vaughn Wood, Director